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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/809,870

03/26/2004

Yoshihito Asao

Q80584

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23373 7590 02/22/2007
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EXAMINER

RUTLAND WALLIS, MICHAEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2836

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

02/22/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/809,870

Applicant(s)

ASAO ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Rutland-Wallis

Art Unit

2836

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2, 4, 6-8 and 12-14 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,9 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/14/06 12/23/04 3/26/04</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1,3,5,9 and 11 in the reply filed on 01/04/2007 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Masaki et al. (JP Pub No. 07-007810) hereinafter referred to as Masaki

With respect to claim 1 Masaki teaches a vehicle power supply system comprising: a battery (item 12); an inverter unit (item 6) for converting DC electric power of the battery into AC electric power and supplying it to a rotating electric machine (item 3 motor) to drive it; an AC wiring line (item 5) for connecting the rotating electric machine and the inverter unit; and a DC wiring line (item 13) for connecting the inverter unit and the battery (see Fig. 1), wherein the inverter unit is placed in a vicinity of the

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battery so that the DC wiring line becomes shorter than the AC wiring line (see constitution, i.e. abstract translation).

With respect to claim 11 Masaki teaches the inverter unit (item 6) is held and fixed (secured in a housing) to the battery (item 12) by the electric connection body (connection wires and secured in housing) for electrically connecting the battery and the inverter unit.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masaki et al. (JP Pub No. 07-007810) in view of Saka et al. (JP Pub No. 2004-120936)

With respect to claims 3 and 5 Masaki teaches in figure 1 the battery and the inverter are arranged in the same housing, and further teaches the battery and the inverter are arranged next to each other. Masaki does not teach the integral fixing to the upper or side face of the battery. Saka teaches making the battery and the inverter integral (see Solution in translated abstract) fixing of the inverter to the battery. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Masaki to integrally fix the inverter to the side or upper face of the battery since it has

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been held that forming in one piece an article which has formerly been formed in two pieces and put together involves only routine skill in the art. *Howard v. Detroit Stove Works*, 150 U.S. 164 (1893)

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masaki et al. (JP Pub No. 07-007810) in view of Imai (JP Pub No. 2001-023700)

With respect to claim 9 Masaki teaches in figure 1 the battery and the inverter are arranged in the same housing, and further teaches the battery and the inverter are arranged next to each other. Masaki does not teach the use of a metal plate in the connection of the battery to the inverter. Imai teaches the use of a plate and mounting board (items 170 and 17) attached to the side of a battery to affix circuits. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a metal plate to connect the battery and the inverter unit in order to secure inverter unit.

Alternatively Claims 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masaki et al. (JP Pub No. 07-007810)

With respect to claims 3 and 5 Masaki teaches in figure 1 the battery and the inverter are arranged in the same housing, and further teaches the battery and the inverter are arranged next to each other. Masaki does not teach the integral fixing to the upper or side face of the battery. It has been held that forming in one piece an article, which has formerly been formed in two pieces, and put together, involves only routine skill in the art. *Howard v. Detroit Stove Works*, 150 U.S. 164 (1893). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Masaki to

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integrally fix the inverter to the side or upper face of the battery in order to in order to reduce the size of the inverter.

Conclusion


The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Asao et al. (U.S. Pub No. 2004/0211613)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Rutland-Wallis whose telephone number is 571-272-5921. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30AM-6:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on 571-272-2058. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MRW


BRIAN SIRCUS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800